Discrimination against Indian citizens in Fiji

2388. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of discrimination against Indian citizens in Fiji under the new Rulers especially in the Trade Union Sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details of diplomatic steps taken to get justice to the citizens of Indian origin in that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The professed aim of the military coups in Fiji has been to guarantee political supermacy to the indigenous Melanesians. The regime in Fiji is understood to be working on a Constitution towards achieving that goal, however, the Constitution is yet to be finalized.

(b) India has strongly condemned the military coups and raised the matter at United Nations General Assembly and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at Vancouver last year. At CHOGM, India played a leading role in the deliberations on Fiji which resulted in the lapse of Fiji's membership of the Commonwealth. We have taken the position that to regain its membership, Fiji would have to adhere to Commonwealth principles which forbid racial discrimination.

Initiatives to reduce the regional imbalances in availability of resources

2389. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has taken any initiative to reduce the regional imbalances inavailability of resources;

(b) whether it is a fact that the richer States are able to avail of large? assisance per capita on account of their ability to provide matching .grants;

(c) in view of this, whether the Planning Commission is aware of the fact that the combined amount transferred through Gadgil formula and Centrally sponsored schemes; became regressive; and

(d) if so, whether Planning Commission propose to undertake a reviaw of the situation to explore the possibility of making 1;he transfer of resources more liberal to the poorer States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (c) Present formula for transfer of resources from the Centre to the Special Category States and the non-Special Category States aims at reducing the regional imbalances in resources. In the case of special Category States like Aruna-chal Pradesh,, Manipur, Maghalaya etc., having very little resources of their own, the entire difference between their approved plan outlay and their resources is met by Central Assistance. The Central Assistance is provided at the rate of 90% grant and 10% loan. For the non-Special Category States, Central Assistance is provided on the basis of 70% loan and 30% grant. It is governed by Modified Gadgil Formula, distribution criteria of which is as follows:

(i) 60% on the basis of 1971 population.

(ii) 20% among those States whose per capita income is below the national average.

(iii) 10% on the basis Of per capita tax effort.

(iv) 10% keeping in view special problems of States.